# 14<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF CALCASIEU STATE OF LOUISIANA

NO. 2022 - 4018

DIV. "B

SCANNED

KIRK MOORE and CAROL MOORE

H. Lynn Jones, li Jo Ann Hanks Suit#2022-4018 B

SEP 16 2022

**VERSUS** 

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STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPA

# of Pages:6

FILED:

DEPUTY CLERK

#### PETITION FOR DAMAGES

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, come Petitioners, Kirk Moore and Carol Moore (hereinafter "Petitioners"), and file their Petition for Damages against Defendant, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company (hereinafter "Defendant" or "State Farm"), respectfully averring as follows:

#### I. PARTIES

# HURRICANE SUIT

- Made Plaintiff herein is KIRK MOORE, a person of the age of majority residing in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
- Made Plaintiff herein is CAROL MOORE, a person of the age of majority residing in Lake Charles, Louisiana.
- 3. Made Defendant herein is STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY, an Illinois insurance company authorized to do and doing business in the State of Louisiana and the Parish of Calcasieu, which may be served through the Louisiana Secretary of State at 8585 Archives Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809.

#### II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. Jurisdiction is proper in this Honorable Court pursuant to Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, Article 2.
- Venue is proper in this Honorable Court pursuant to Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure
   Article 42 and 43.

#### III. RELEVANT FACTS

- At all times relevant hereto, Petitioners owned the property at 700 Kenneth Cole Road,
   Lake Charles, Louisiana 70611 (the "Property").
- 7. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant provided a policy of insurance, number 18BBH8037 (the "Policy"), to Petitioners which covered the Property against perils



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- including hurricanes and provided coverages for Dwelling; Other Structures; Personal Property; and Loss of Use, *inter alia*.
- On or around August 26, 2020, Hurricane Laura caused significant damage to Petitioners'
   Property.
- Petitioners promptly reported the loss to State Farm, who assigned it claim number 13-10R4-98G (the "Claim").
- 10. On or about October 3, 2020, Defendant inspected the Property and documented \$37,348.18 in damages to the Property, but after over-depreciating the loss and applying the Policy's deductible, allowed Petitioners only \$27,936.34 for their substantial and covered losses.
- 11. Defendant's inspection of the Property constituted satisfactory proof of loss, as that term is used in conjunction with Louisiana's bad faith statutes, La. R.S. §§ 22:1892 and 22:1973.
- Petitioners were unable to make meaningful repairs to the Property with the meager proceeds allowed by State Farm.
- 13. On or about November 24, 2020, Petitioners hired public adjusting firm S&C Consulting ("S&C") to inspect the Property and create an estimate of damages. S&C documented a total of \$212,764.19 in damages a difference of over \$175,000 in comparison to Defendant's estimate just a month earlier.
- 14. On or about February 10, 2021, Petitioners submitted to Defendant a demand for unconditional tenders, attaching the S&C estimate and supporting photographs.
- 15. On or about February 25, 2021, Defendant tendered payment in the amount of \$3,647.79.
- 16. On or about March 8, 2021, Defendant tendered payment in the amount of \$2,406.12.
- 17. On or about March 19, 2021, Defendant revised its estimate to reflect a total of \$225,125.02 in damages to the Property, but after over-depreciating the loss and applying the Policy's \$18,285 deductible, allowed Petitioners additional funds of only \$78,867.46 for their substantial and covered losses.
- 18. To date, no other insurance proceeds have been forthcoming.
- 19. As a result of Defendant's failure to timely and adequately compensate Petitioners for their substantial losses, the Property remains in a state of disrepair.
- 20. Petitioners were forced to incur the expense of retaining counsel and other expenses to prosecute their claim.

- 21. Upon information and belief, Defendant's failure to timely and adequately compensate Petitioners for their loss, after receiving satisfactory proof of loss, was purposeful or at least negligent.
- 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant purposely and/or negligently misrepresented to Petitioner the terms and conditions of the Policy.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Defendant conducted the investigation and claims handling for Petitioner's claims in bad faith, as that term is term is used in conjunction with Louisiana's bad faith statutes, La R.S. §§ 22:1892 and 22:1973.
- 24. Upon information and belief, Defendant manipulated its pricing software to artificially suppress the cost of repairs below market value.
- 25. Upon information and belief, Defendant purposely or at least negligently failed to include adequate overhead and profit in its estimates of damages.
- 26. Petitioners have incurred or will incur additional expenses in repairing the Property as a result of Defendant's failure to timely compensate them for their substantial and covered losses.
- 27. Petitioners have incurred or will incur additional living expenses as a result of the damages caused to their Property by Hurricane Laura, including those additional living expenses that will be incurred during the repair of the Property.

#### III. CAUSES OF ACTION

#### A. Breach of the Insurance Contract

- 28. Petitioners reallege and re-aver the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs, above, as if restated herein.
- 29. An insurance contract, the Policy, exists between Petitioners and Defendant.
- 30. The Policy provides coverages for perils including hurricanes.
- 31. Despite having received satisfactory proof of loss for damages caused by Hurricane Laura,
  Defendant failed to timely tender adequate insurance proceeds as required by the Policy.
- 32. By failing to timely tender adequate insurance proceeds after having received satisfactory proof of a covered loss by way of its inspection, Defendant breached the Policy.
- 33. By failing to timely tender undisputed insurance proceeds after having received satisfactory proof of a covered loss by way of its inspection, Defendant breached the Policy.

- 34. By failing to timely tender undisputed insurance proceeds after having received satisfactory proof of a covered loss by way of the S&C estimate, Defendant breached the Policy.
- 35. By purposely and/or negligently misrepresenting to Petitioner the terms and conditions of the Policy, Defendant breached the Policy.
- 36. By failing to conduct the claims handling for Petitioners' Claim in good faith and with fair dealing, Defendant breached the Policy.
- 37. By manipulating its pricing software to artificially suppress the cost of repairs below market value, Defendant breached the Policy.
- 38. By failing to include adequate overhead and profit in its estimates of damages, Defendant breached the Policy.
- 39. Petitioners have suffered and continue to suffer damages as a result of these breaches of the Policy.

#### B. Bad Faith

- 40. Petitioners reallege and re-aver the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs, above, as if restated herein.
- 41. The actions and/or inactions of Defendant in failing to timely and adequately compensate Petitioners for the covered losses under the Policy were arbitrary, capricious, and without probable cause—as those terms are used in conjunction with La. R.S. §§ 22:1892 and 22:1973, making Defendant liable for statutory bad faith penalties.
- 42. Under La. R.S. § 22:1973, an insurer owes a good faith duty and fair dealing to an insured and has an affirmative duty to adjust claims fairly and promptly; failing to pay a claim in a manner arbitrary, capricious or without probable cause is in violation of La. R.S. § 22:1973.
- 43. "[F]ailing to pay the amount of any claim due any person insured by the contract within sixty days after receipt of satisfactory proof of loss from the claimant when such failure is arbitrary, capricious, or without probable cause" is considered "bad faith" and is in violation of La. R.S. § 22:1973.
- 44. La. R.S. § 22:1892 imposes bad faith penalties on insurers who fail to adequately pay claims following satisfactory proof of loss within thirty (30) days.
- 45. Defendant is in violation of La. R.S. §§ 22:1973 and 22:1892 for failing to provide

  Petitioners adequate payment in connection with their Claim, despite having received

- satisfactory proof of loss following its own inspections of the Property and following its receipt of independent proofs of loss by way of the S&C estimate.
- 46. Defendant's misrepresentation of the relevant facts and/or the terms of the Policy was in bad faith.
- 47. Defendant's failure to pay timely for damages it knew, or should have known, existed at the time of the initial adjustment of the relevant claims was in bad faith.
- 48. Defendant's failure to pay timely for damages it knew, or should have known, existed at the time it received the S&C estimate was in bad faith.
- 49. Defendant's manipulation of its pricing software to artificially suppress the cost of repairs below market value was in bad faith.
- Defendant's failure to include adequate overhead and profit in its estimates of damages
   was in bad faith.
- 51. Defendant's handling of Petitioners' Claim was in bad faith.

#### **IV. DAMAGES**

- 52. Petitioners reallege and re-aver the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs, above, as if restated herein.
- 53. As a result of Defendant's breaches of contract, bad faith claims adjusting, and other bad acts, Petitioners have incurred the following, non-exclusive damages:
  - a. Diminution of the value of the Property;
  - b. Actual repair costs;
  - c. Reimbursement for personal repairs at the Property;
  - d. Actual costs related to personal property manipulation, cleaning, repair, and/or replacement;
  - e. Additional living expenses;
  - f. Mental anguish;
  - g. Penalties delineated in La. R.S. §§ 22:1892 and 22:1973; and
  - h. Attorney's fees, other professional fees, and litigation costs associated with the bringing of this action.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

54. Petitioners request a trial by jury.

WHEREFORE, Petitioners, Kirk Moore and Carol Moore, pray that Defendant, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, be served with a copy of this Petition and be duly cited to appear and answer the allegations contained therein, and that after expiration of all legal delays and proper legal proceedings, there be a judgment entered in favor of Petitioners, Kirk Moore and Carol Moore, and against Defendant, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, in an amount that will fully and fairly compensate Petitioners pursuant to the evidence and in accordance with the law, all sums with legal interest thereon, from the date of judicial demand until fully paid, for all costs of these proceedings, and for all general and equitable relief.

#### RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Drotonen Casey

Galen M. Hair, La. Bar No. 32865

Gretchen Liljeberg Casey, La. Bar No. 40179

HAIR SHUNNARAH TRIAL

ATTORNEYS, LLC

d/b/a INSURANCE CLAIM HQ

d/b/a INSURANCE CLAIM LAWYERS,

INC.

3540 S. I-10 Service Rd. W, Ste. 300

Metairie, Louisiana 70001 Telephone: 504.684.5200

Facsimile: 504.613.6351 hair@hairshunnarah.com casey@hairshunnarah.com

## Please Serve:

State Farm Fire and Casualty Company
Through its Registered Agent for Service of Process:
Louisiana Secretary of State
8585 Archives Ave.,
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

locuSign Envelope ID: 16822D50-3841-49C8-89A4-3E3E84A482C0

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IN RE: HURRICANE LAURA

STATE OF LOUISIANA

AND

2021-1045

HURRICANE DELTA CLAIMS

AUS ~ 2 2021

PARISH OF CALCASIEU

<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

DEPUTY CLERK

SECOND AMENDED CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

REGARDING CERTAIN PROPERTY DAMAGE SUITS ARISING FROM HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA

On August 27, 2020, Hurricane Laura came ashore near Cameron Parish, Louisiana and traveled through Calcasieu Parish. As a Category 4 (near 5) hurricane, it was the fifth strongest storm to ever impact the United States. The United States government reports that Laura damaged over 400,000 structures, and inflicted over \$19 billion in damage to western Louisiana and southeast Texas. Major Hurricane-force winds, with gusts in excess of 150 mph, covered the entirety of Calcasieu Parish, and inflicted catastrophic damage throughout the entirety of this Court's jurisdiction. On October 9, 2020, a subsequent, Category 2 hurricane – Hurricane Delta – struck the same area devastated just six weeks earlier by Hurricane Laura, causing additional damage estimated at \$4 billion. Hurricanes Laura and Delta may sometimes hereinafter be referred to as the "Hurricanes," and the causes of action arising therefrom may sometimes be referred to as "the Hurricane Cases,"

In the months following Hurricanes Laura and Delta, many related lawsuits have been filed and are pending before the Court, with still many more expected to be filed. On March 16, 2021, this Court issued the First Case Management Order related to Hurricane Cases ("Original CMO"). In Act 318 of the 2020 Regular Session the Legislature of Louisiana amended the laws expanding judicial authority related to special masters and mandatory mediation in cases stemming from certain major disasters ("Act 318").





I Jeff Masters, Devastating Laura Is Tied as the Fifth-strongest Hurricane on Record to Make Landfall in the Continental U.S., YALE CLIMATE CONNECTIONS (Aug. 27, 2020), available at https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2020/08/devastating-laura-tied-as-fifth-strongest-hutricane-to-make-landfall-in-continental-u-s/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.climate.gov/news-features/hlogs/beyond-data/2020-us-billion-dollar-weather-and-climate-disastershistorical https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/content/us-billion-dollar-disasters-top-noaa-expert-weighs-in

AON, Global Catastrophe Recap (Oct. 2020) at p. 4, available at

http://thoughtleadership.aon.com/documents/20201111\_analytics-if-october-global-recap.pdf

Ail causes of action concerning damage related to Hurricanes Laura or Delta are subject to this Order, including causes of action where the third-party demand or cross claim is a claim against an insurer by an insured due to damage from the Hurricanes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Hurricanes Laura and Delta qualify pursuant to R.S. 13:4165(F)(1). A major disaster declaration was made by the President for Calcasieu Parish in Hurricane Laura under FEMA Release No. HQ-20-229 and for Hurricane Delta under FEMA Release No. HQ-20-299. Calcasieu Parish qualified for Individual assistance for both Hurricanes (FEMA designation DR-4559-LA and DR-4570-LA).

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Act 318 authorizes this court to amend the Original CMO, and, after consultation with and upon the recommendation of the Special Master and in consideration the high volume of cases from Calcasieu Parish in state and federal courts, this Court finds it warranted to amend the Original CMO to best accommodate the adjudication of Hurricane cases in this Court.

Accordingly, this Court's aim continues to be the just and expedient resolution of these related matters, in spite of the increased strain on the Court's resources, and with the primary goal of enabling the Calcasieu Parish community to move forward with crucial recovery efforts, in the aftermath of both Hurricanes Laura and Delta, and the Coronavirus pandemic. In consideration of these aims, after due consideration of the Case Management Order protocol implemented by the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana concerning all Hurricane Cases, this Court issues the instant First Amended Case Management Order. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Second Amended Case Management Order shall be immediately applicable to all Hurricane Cases and shall replace the Original CMO.

#### SECTION 1. DISASTER PROTOCOLS FOR INITIAL DISCLOSURES

The Court has reviewed the Disaster Litigation Initial Discovery Disaster Protocols adopted by the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, applicable to all Calcasieu Parish Hurricane Cases filed in federal court. The Federal Court considered the Disaster Protocols implemented by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas following Hurricane Harvey. These Disaster Protocols call for prompt sharing of specific information to promote uniformity, to facilitate prompt evaluation of each case, to foster communication between the parties, and to facilitate an expedited mediation procedure.

Accordingly, this Court has adopted the Disaster Protocols attached hereto as Exhibit "A" in the Disaster Protocols Standing Order of March 16, 2021 and makes them applicable to all Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta cases filed in this Court. Additionally, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the disclosures and exchange of information required by the Disaster Protocols Order issued March 16, 2021 shall be due 45 days from the date that defendant files responsive pleadings. This deadline may sometimes hereinafter be referred to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Disaster Litigation Initial Discovery Protocols, available at https://www.txs.uscourts.gov/sites/txs/files/Disaster%20FINAL%20Web%20version.pdf
<sup>1</sup> The Standing Order Regarding Initial Discovery Protocols in Certain Property Damage Suits Arising from

The Standing Order Regarding Initial Discovery Protocols in Certain Property Damage Suits Arising from Hurricanes Laura and Delta together with its Exhibits entered on March 16, 2021 shall remain in force and apply to all Hurricane Cases under this First Amended CMO.

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as the "Disclosure Deadline". No extension or delay in the time to file responsive pleadings shall extend the Disclosure Deadline to more than 75 days from the original deadline to file responsive pleadings unless the extension is by the consent of all parties or pursuant to an express Order of this Court. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each party shall supplement their Initial Disclosures at least fifteen days prior to any scheduled mediation pursuant to the CMO. Nothing in this Section prevents other discovery in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, except that requests for subpoenas for depositions shall not be submitted during the SSP without pre-approval of the Special Master or leave of the Court.

#### SECTION 2. PRIVILEGE

Documents for which a privilege may properly be asserted include communications that reflect the mental impressions, conclusions, opinions, or theories of an attorney.<sup>8</sup> However, as recognized by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York In Re: Hurricane Sandy Cases, "Documents routinely prepared in the ordinary course of business, including but not limited to adjusters' reports, and other expert analyses, including draft reports, are not privileged and should be produced."

Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any party withholding disclosure of any information or documents, where said disclosure is required pursuant to the Disaster Protocols, shall produce a privilege log to opposing counsel on or before the Disclosure Deadline. This privilege log shall detail all information or documents that it declined to produce on the basis of that the material is privileged. The log should include the author of the document, the recipient of the document, the date of the document, and the nature of the privilege asserted.

Any dispute concerning privileged items shall be resolved by contradictory motion before the assigned District Judge. The District Judge may direct that the disputed items be provided to him *in camera* prior to the hearing of the motion.

#### SECTION 3. SPECIAL MASTER AND APPOINTED NEUTRALS

Considering the foregoing reasons supplied by the Court in the introduction infra, the Court finds that exceptional circumstances exist which warrant the appointment of a Special

Lo. C.C.P. art. 1424(A)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, In Re Hurricane Sandy Cases: Case Management Order No. 1, p. 10, available at https://img.nyed.uscourts.gov/files/general-ordes/14mc41cmo01.pdf.

Master to assist with the efficient and fair administration of all Hurricane Cases. Pursuant to the Court's inherent judicial power and its authority under La. R.S. 13:4165, et seq, it is ordered that THE COURT HEREBY APPOINTS CADE R. COLE, ESQ. as the Special Master for Hurricane Cases in the 14th Judicial District Court.

The Court takes specific notice of his role as Deputy Special Master under the Original CMO and his service as Deputy Special Master for Hurricane Cases, by the United States District Court for Western Louisiana. The Court anticipates that this appointment and continued coordination with the federal Special Master will encourage consistent resolutions of Hurricane Cases across both State and Federal Courts. As part of their appointment, the Court mandates that the Special Master shall proceed with all reasonable diligence, and shall exercise their respective rights and responsibilities to direct the Streamlined Settlement Process as provided in this Order.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the Neutrals, referenced in Section 4(II)(B), supra, are hereby appointed and shall proceed with all reasonable diligence and shall exercise their rights and responsibilities under the Streamlined Settlement Process ("SSP") as the Special Master may direct.

#### I. The Special Master

The Special Master shall administer, coordinate, and preside over the SSP. This authority includes the power to order parties and/or party representatives with full power of settlement to submit briefing, engage in discovery, and attend settlement conferences. Nothing in this part shall prevent regular formal discovery or motions to compel to be filed with and heard by the assigned District Judge.

#### II. Compensation of Appointed Neutrals

The Special Master and all other appointed neutrals under the SSP (the "Appointed Neutrals") shall be compensated in the amount of:

- A: \$400 per hour for the Appointed Neutrals;
- B. \$250 per case for the Special Master for administrative expenses in administering, scheduling, organizing, and coordinating the Streamlined Settlement Process for each case amongst the parties as well as with the Appointed Neutrals; and
- C. all actual expenses of the Appointed Neutrals, including but not limited to travel, meeting rooms, telephone, and electronic audio or video conference means.

Unless otherwise directed by mutual agreement of the parties or as otherwise directed by the Special Master, all of the above fees and expenses shall be paid twenty-five percent (25%) by the plaintiff(s) and seventy-five (75%) by the defendant(s).

#### III. Role of Appointed Neutrals

- A. The Special Master and Appointed Neutrals may communicate ex parte with the Court when deemed appropriate by the Special Master, at his discretion, without providing notice to the parties, including communication certifying that the parties have complied with the requirements of the SSP.
- B. The Special Master and Appointed Neutrals may initiate contact and communicate with counsel for any party as he or she deems appropriate with respect to the efficient administration and management of the SSP.
- C. The Special Master and Appointed Neutrals, the parties, and those assisting the foregoing shall be bound by the confidentiality of the settlement discussions.
- D. The Special Master may designate any of the Appointed Neutrals to act as his deputy from time to time and to perform any duties of the Special Master.

#### IV. Notice to the Special Master.

Any party to a Hurricane Case may file a motion with the assigned District Judge requesting an opt out from the SSP for good cause shown in writing within the applicable deadline (see Section 4 below). ITIS HEREBY ORDERED that any party filing an opt out motion shall copy the Special Master, and that the parties shall provide notice of the Court's Order on the motion to opt out to the Special Master, regardless whether the motion to opt out is granted or denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any prior opt out pursuant to the Original CMO be and is hereby vacated, and that any party that previously opted out shall have fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of a copy of this Order (including by email to their counsel of record) to file a Motion to Opt Out detailing their good cause for why they should be allowed to opt out of the SSP. The Court may set the Motion to Opt Out for hearing or decide it in chambers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for any party to a Hurricane Case that has been provided a copy of this Order shall be required to provide email notice to the Special Master of the initial pleadings and all subsequent filings in any Hurricane Case (knowledge of this provision is presumed where counsel for the party has been provided a copy of this Order). The Special Master shall send an Initial Informational Package on the SSP to all parties and/or counsel of record for Hurricane Cases subject to the SSP.

# SECTION 4. STREAMLINED SETTLEMENT PROCESS ("SSP")

Within 30 days of the filing of the defendant's responsive pleading (or within 15 days of the transmittal to their counsel of a copy of this Order, including by electronic or other means — whichever is later), either party may file a motion to opt out of this Streamlined Settlement Process for good cause shown. Unless the Court authorizes an opt out, then the parties shall participate in the two-staged Streamlined Settlement Process, which is described as follows:

## I. First Stage: Settlement Conference

Within 30 days of the Disclosure Deadline in all Hurricane Cases, all parties shall conduct an informal settlement conference among all parties and their counsel. Within 15 days of the Disclosure Deadline counsel for the plaintiff(s) and counsel for the defendant(s) shall meet to confer and discuss a mutually convenient time, date, and manner for the conference. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the desire

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to resolve the Hurricane Cases as expeditiously as possible, settlement conferences should be conducted, where possible, by phone or audiovisual communication, including but not limited to Zoom, Skype, or similar platforms.

Counsel for each plaintiff and for each defendant must have full authority to resolve the case from their clients, who shall be readily available by telephone if circumstances for that particular settlement conference require assistance.

#### II. Second Stage: Mediation

Cases that do not resolve during the initial settlement conference shall be set for a formal mediation. The parties shall provide the Special Master written notice (including by email and preferably jointly) of completion of the First Stage along with a request for mediation. The Special Master shall then assign each Hurricane Case to an Assigned Neutral from the court approved list found in Paragraph B of this Subsection, and it is the goal that Assigned Neutrals complete mediation within 90 days of appointment. The Special Master (or Appointed Neutral for the case) may set a scheduling conference, or communicate with counsel about availability through other means, but shall seek to schedule the mediations in an expeditious manner at mutually convenient times and dates for all parties.

#### A. Conduct of Mediation

After scheduling of an agreed mediation, counsel for each party shall submit confidential statements solely to the appointed neutral. The appointed neutral shall determine, after conferring with the parties, on the length of the confidential mediation statements and the permissible number of exhibits attached thereto.

Plaintiff(s) shall be present in-person along with counsel (subject to accommodations approved by the case's Appointed Neutral). Defense counsel shall also attend in-person. A representative from defendant(s) is encouraged to attend, but unless otherwise directed by the Special Master the defendant(s) representative shall not be required to attend if counsel for the defendant has full authority to resolve the case. In addition, a representative of the defendant shall be readily available by telephone, if circumstances for that particular mediation require assistance.

To the extent agreed by the parties and the case's Appointed Neutral, this mediation conference may be conducted by phone or other means of electronic audio or video communication, including but not limited to Zoom, Skype, or similar platforms.

As part of this Streamlined Settlement Process, the attendees may each make opening statements but there shall be no live witness testimony.

#### B. List of Neutrals

The Court hereby initially designates and appoints the following individuals as "neutrals" (mediators) for the SSP:

- Any person designated by the Special Master after consultation with the Court who is qualified pursuant to R.S. 13:4165(F)(5), including: H. Ward Fontenot, Patrick J. Hron, Margaret "Peggy" Landry, John W. Perry, III, Emmett C. Sole, Elizabeth Middleton, Richard J. Hymel, or Randall K. Theunissen; and
- Any person designated as a neutral pursuant to the United States District Court for Western Louisiana's CMO, including as amended from time to time.

#### C. Neutral Training

The Special Master may undertake to provide special training to the neutrals, including coordinating participation in training prepared for the Streamlined Settlement Process. The Special Master and his deputy may jointly form a plaintiffs' liaison committee and a defense liaison committee or may coordinate with any related Federal Court liaison committees for Hurricane Cases. If formed, the Special Master or his deputy may solicit input and responses concerning commonly occurring legal issues that the liaison committees, from experience, believe may arise in a large number of these cases, along with relevant case law or other authority addressing these issues. While the ultimate determination of any such common issue may well be fact driven, and the outcome of any legal issue will be determined by the Court, the Special Master or his deputy may seek this information in order to educate and fully prepare the appointed neutrals with the hope of expediting the settlement process. The Special Master or his deputy may facilitate discussions by and among the appointed neutrals to promote, to the extent possible, consistency in the resolution of cases.

#### III. Extensions of Time

Upon a joint request by the parties, or for other good cause shown, the Special Master or his deputy may extend any deadline specified in this Order by up to 15 days.

# SECTION 5. COURT APPOINTED UMPIRES REQUIRED UNDER POLICIES

If an insurance policy implicated in a Hurricane Case provides for court appointment of a neutral or third appraiser for valuation disputes (hereinafter referred to as an "Umpire"), any request for the appointment by this Court of an Umpire shall only occur if the parties have been unable to agree on their own.

## I. Where Parties HAVE been allowed to Opt Out of the SSP

If any party has been permitted to opt out of the SSP following a timely motion for the same, any party requesting appointment of an Umpire shall file a motion requesting same with the case's assigned District Judge, which motion shall be set for contradictory hearing.

Counsel for either or both the Insured and the Insurer may also submit a joint motion requesting appointment of an Umpire to the Civil Duty Judge, who may agree to hear the motion during their respective duty week.

#### II. Where Partles Have NOT Opted Out of the SSP

In all other cases, any request for the appointment by the Court of an Umpire shall be made in writing no later than 14 days following the filing of the defendant's responsive pleading. Any motion or request for this Court's appointment of an Umpire shall be submitted to the Special Master in the same manner as provided for a discovery dispute under the SSP, and the parties shall notify the Special Master and transmit the Umpire request to the Special Master via email at ColeFirm@colelaw.us. The deadline may be extended by the Special Master in exceptional circumstances.

#### III. Umpire-Only Filing

If a requesting party is seeking court appointment of an Umpire and no case is otherwise filed or pending before this Court (an "Umpire Only Filing"), then the parties shall follow the same procedures in Subsection 5(II). Any such request shall be made in writing no later than 14 days following the filing of the defendant's responsive pleading, and any such motion or request for this Court's appointment of an Umpire

shall be referred to the Special Master under the above captioned general docket created for the Hurricane Cases. The partles shall notify the Special Master and transmit the Umpire request to the Special Master via email at ColeFirm@colelaw.us. The deadline may be extended by the Special Master in exceptional circumstances.

An Insurer is required to provide written notice of the request to any known counsel for the Insured (or directly to an unrepresented Insured). An Insured is required to provide written notice of the request to any known counsel of Insurer (if any) or alternatively to the Insurer's primary point of contact on the claim with Insured. The appraisers previously selected by each party shall also be provided notice, and their contact information (phone and email address) shall be provided in the request for appointment of an Umpire.

A written report and recommendation following the Umpire's appointment shall be issued to the parties, and shall be deemed applicable to the parties in the same manner as if made by an order of the Court unless the report and recommendation is overturned by the assigned District Judge following a motion filed with the assigned District Judge within seven days of transmittal of the written report.

In an Umpire Only Filing, the Special Master shall provide the report and recommendation to the parties, who will in turn provide the same to the civil Duty Judge as of the time of the issuance of the report and recommendations. Similarly, the recommendation shall be deemed applicable to the parties in the same manner as if made by an order of the Court unless the report and recommendation is overturned by the civil Duty Judge following a motion filed with the civil Duty Judge within seven days of transmittal of the written report.

SECTION 7. CLERK OF COURT AND NOTICE

A Plaintiff filing a Hurricane Case should note on its cover letter, in <u>ALL CAPS</u> and <u>RED FONT</u>, that the matter is a "HURRICANE CASE". Each caption and on each pleading, "HURRICANE CASE" in bold print shall follow the docket number. If the Special Master learns the Order has not been entered by the Clerk of Court, he shall serve it on the parties by email and may file proof of the same into the record at no cost.

In all subsequently filed Hurricane Cases, a copy of this order shall be served on the defendant(s) along with the Petition and Citation. The Clerk of Court shall include a reference that the Case Management Order is served with the Petition in the Citation issued. The Clerk of Court shall also provide a copy to the plaintiff by any authorized means.

The Clerk of Court shall transmit via email, at least weekly, to the Special Master the docket numbers, case caption, and attorney contact information for any Hurricane Cases filed.

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District Judge, Division F

Any party making any filing in a Hurricane Case subject to this Order shall serve a courtesy copy on the Special Master in the same manner as enrolled counsel via email at ColeFirm@colelaw.us.

# SECTION 7. COURT SUPERVISION

The Disaster Protocols and Streamlined Settlement Process shall, at all times, be subject to the ultimate control and supervision of the Court. This Case Management Order for Hurricane Cases is subject to modification pursuant to further orders of this Court. All provisions of this Order shall become effective August 1, 2021 and shall be applicable to all cases whether then pending or thereafter filed.

SO ORDERED on this 2 day of	of August , 2021, at Lake Charles,
Louisiana.	
HON, G. MICHAEL CANADAY	CG7
Chief Judge	HON. CLAYTON DAVIS District Judge, Division B
Robert L. Wyatt, Div. D	David A. Rttchic
HON. ROBERT L. WYATT	HON. DAVID A. RITCHIE
District Judge, Division D	District Judge, Division E
Occusioned by:	beendrick J. Guidry, Div. H
HON. DERRICK KEE	HON KENDEREET CHIDEY

District Judge, Division H

AUG - 2 2021

Deputy Clerk of Court Calcasieu Parieh, Louiziana

**EXHIBIT A** 

FILED MAR 1 0 2021

# INITIAL DISCOVERY PROTOCOLS FOR FIRST-PARTY INSURANCE PROPERTY DAMAGE CASES ARISING FROM HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA

#### PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS.

- (1) Statement of purpose.
  - a. These Disaster Litigation Initial Discovery Protocols ("Disaster Protocols") apply to cases involving first-party insurance property damage claims arising from manmade or natural disasters ("Disaster Cases"). The Disaster Protocols are designed to be implemented by trial judges, lawyers, and litigants in state and federal courts. The Disaster Protocols make it easier and faster for the parties and their counsel to:

    (1) exchange important information and documents early in the case; (2) frame the issues to be resolved; (3) value the claims for possible early resolution; and (4) plan for more efficient and targeted subsequent formal discovery, if needed.
  - b. Participating courts may implement the Disaster Protocols by local rule or by standing, general, or individual-case orders. Although the Disaster Protocols are designed for the full range of case size and complexity, if any party believes that there is good cause why a case should be exempted, in whole or in part, from the Disaster Protocols, that party may raise the issue with the court.
  - c. The Disaster Protocols are not intended to preclude or modify any party's rights to formal discovery as provided by law, code or other applicable rules. Responses to the Disaster Protocols do not waive or foreclose a party's right to seek additional discovery under the applicable rules.
  - d. Except as modified by the court, the Disaster Protocols were prepared by a balanced group of highly experienced attorneys from across the country with expertise in Disaster Cases. The Disaster Protocols require parties to exchange information and documents routinely requested in every Disaster Case ("Initial Discovery"). This Initial Discovery is unlike initial disclosures under federal or state rules because it includes favorable as well as unfavorable information and documents, is limited to information and documents that are not subject to objection, and is limited to the information and documents most likely to be important and useful in facilitating early settlement discussion and resolving or narrowing the issues requiring further litigation
- (2) Definitions. The following definitions apply to cases under the Disaster Protocols.
  - a. Claimed Loss, "Claimed Loss" means the loss or damage that the Insured seeks to recover from the Insurer in the litigation.
  - b. Document. "Document" and "documents" are defined to be synonymous in

Page 1 of 8

meaning and equal in scope to the phrase "documents or electronically stored information" in FRCP 34(a)(1)(A) or similar state rules. A draft of a document or a nonidentical copy is a separate document.

- Event. "Event" means the disaster alleged to have caused the Insured's Claimed Loss.
- d. Identify (Documents). When referring to documents, to "identify" means to describe, to the extent known: (i) the type of document; (ii) the general subject matter; (iii) the date; (iv) the author(s), according to the document; and (v) the person(s) to whom, according to the document, the document (or a copy) was to have been sent. Alternatively, to "identify" a document means to produce a copy.
- e. Identify (Natural Persons). When referring to natural persons, to "identify" means to give the person's: (i) full name; (ii) present or last known address and telephone number; (iii) email address; (iv) present or last known place of employment; (v) present or last known job title; and (vi) relationship, if any, to the parties. Once a person has been identified in accordance with this subparagraph, only the name of that person need be listed in response to subsequent requests to identify that person.
- f. Identify (Non-Natural Persons or Entities). When referring to a corporate entity, partnership, or other unincorporated association, to "identify" means to give the: (i) corporate or entity name and, if known, the trade or other names under which it has done business during the relevant time period; (ii) state of incorporation or registration; (iii) address of its principal place of business; (iv) primary phone number; and (v) internet address. Once a corporate or other business entity has been identified in accordance with this subparagraph, only the name of that entity needs to be listed in response to subsequent requests to identify that entity.
- g. Insurer. "Insurer" means any person or entity alleged to have insured the Property that is the subject of the operative complaint, unless otherwise specified.
- h. Insured. "Insured" means any named individual(s), corporate entity(ies), partnership(s), or other unincorporated association(s) alleging property damage as an Insured in the litigation, or asserting a claim under an assignment.
- i. Loss. "Loss" means damage to the Property caused by the Event.
- j. Other Insurance. "Other Insurance" means any insurance policy, other than the Policy in force on the date of the Event, that covers or potentially covers the Property or the Claimed Loss.
- k. Policy. "Policy" means the insurance policy alleged to cover some or all of Insured's Claimed Loss that is the subject of the Insured's claim in the litigation.

- 1. Property. "Property" means the property (building or contents) that the Insured claims coverage for under the Policy In the litigation.
- m. Relating to. "Relating to" means concerning, referring, describing, evidencing, or constituting.

#### (3) Instructions.

- a. The relevant time period for this Initial Discovery begins on the date immediately before the Event and ends on the date the lawsuit is filed for the Claimed Loss, unless a different time period is indicated with respect to a specific production obligation as set out in Part 2 or Part 3 below.
- b. This Initial Discovery is presumptively not subject to any objections except for attorney-client privilege or work-product protection, including a joint defense agreement. Documents withheld based on a privilege or work-product protection claim are subject to expressly making the claim A detailed privilege log is required as specified in the applicable Case Management Order or any subsequent orders of the Court, otherwise documents withheld as privileged or work-product protected communications may be described briefly by category or type. Withholding documents on this basis does not alleviate any obligation to produce the withheld documents or additional information about them at a later date, if the court orders or the applicable rules require.
- c. If a partial or incomplete or "unknown at this time" answer or production is given to any disclosure requirement in these Disaster Protocols, the responding party must state the reason that the answer or production is partial, incomplete, or unknown and when supplemental information or documents providing a complete response will be produced.
- d. For this Initial Discovery, a party must disclose information and documents that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and that are reasonably available. This Initial Discovery is subject to obligations on supplementation and relevant requirements concerning certification of responses. This Initial Discovery does not preclude either party from seeking additional discovery later under the rules.
- e. This Initial Discovery is subject to the attached Interim Protective Order unless the parties agree or the court orders otherwise. The Interim Protective Order will remain in place until and unless the parties agree on, or the court orders, a different protective order. Absent party agreement or court order, the Interim Protective Order does not apply to subsequent discovery.
- f. Within 14 days after the later of entry of this Order or the filing of a responsive

pleading by the responding party, the Parties shall meet and confer on the format (e.g., searchable PDF, Excel spreadsheet) for the production of documents under these Disaster Protocols. This will not delay the timeframes for Initial Discovery, absent court order. Nor will production in one format preclude requesting production in another format, if applicable rules of discovery allow.

# PART 2: INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED BY THE INSURED.

- (1) Timing.
  - Unless the court orders otherwise, the Insured's Initial Discovery responses must be provided within 45 days after the Insurer has submitted a responsive pleading or motion (its first filing in this Court), or within 20 days of the date of this Order if that date is later.
- (2) Information to be produced by the Insured:
  - a. A description of the Insured's ownership or other interest in the Property.
  - The address of the Property (or location of movable Property) on the date of the Event.
  - c. The name of each Insurer and all policy numbers for each Policy or Other Insurance held by or potentially benefitting the Insured or the Property on the date of the loss, including relevant policy and claim numbers for any claims.
  - d. Identify any current mortgagee or other known lien holder.
  - A computation of each item or type of Claimed Loss, including content claims if in dispute. When the Policy requires, the computation should reasonably identify or itemize price and quantity of materials.
  - f. Identify any payments received under the Policy relating to the Event. Identify the source and amount of any payments received after the Event from Other Insurance, or any other source, for all or any part of the Loss.
  - g. Identify any grant or other similar program that the Insured applied for after the Event, including a Small Business Administration loan, seeking payment for all or any part of the Loss.
  - Identify the public or other adjusters, estimators, inspectors, contractors, engineers, or other persons engaged by or on behalf of the Insured relating to the Claimed Loss.
  - i. With respect to any Other Insurance, all policy numbers, the name of each insurer, and claim and docket numbers for any claims made for coverage by the Insured on the same Property at issue in this litigation.

Page 4 of 8

- Identify the source and amount of any payments received after the Event from Other Insurance, or any other source, for all or any part of the Loss.
- k. A general description, including the court and docket number, of any other lawsuits arising from the Event relating to the Property.
- A general description of any known preexisting damage to the Property relating to the Claimed Loss.
- m. A general description of any claims for property damage or lawsuits resulting from property damage in the past ten years relating to the Property.
- n. Identify any sale, transfer, or foreclosure of the Property after the Event.
- (3) Complete and unaltered copies of the following documents to be produced by the Insured:
  - a. Documents relating to the Claimed Loss, including: loss estimates; adjuster's reports; engineering reports; contractor's reports; estimates, bids, plans, or specifications regarding repair work (whether planned, in progress, or completed); photographs; videos; or other materials relating to the Claimed Loss, along with any receipts, invoices, and other records of actual costs to repair or replace the Claimed Loss. This shall include all reports or analyses, including draft reports, prepared on behalf of Insured.
    - b. Proofs of loss for the Claimed Loss.
    - Documents relied on by the Insured in generating any proof of loss required or provided under the Policy.
    - d. Written communications exchanged between the Insured and Insurer that refer or relate to Insured's Claimed Loss, the Property, or damages, or otherwise relating to the Insured's claim.
    - e. Photographs and videos of the Property taken for the purpose of documenting the condition of the Property, including photographs and videos of the Loss.
    - f. Written communications, photographs, or estimates of damages sought from or paid by any other insurer related to the Event.
    - g. The insurance policy with respect to any Other Insurance, and the claim numbers for claims made to recover Loss to the Property relating to the Event.
  - h. Appraisals or surveys of the Property condition within five years before, or any time after, the Event.
  - If there has been an appraisal under the Policy, documents relating to the appraisal process.

Page 5 of 8

j. Any other document(s) on which the Insured relies to support the Claimed Loss.

## PART 3: INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS TO BE PRODUCED BY THE INSURER.

- (1) Timing.
- (2) Unless the court orders otherwise, the Insurer's Initial Discovery responses must be provided within 45 days after the Insurer has submitted a responsive pleading or motion (its first filing in this Court in response or answer to the plaintiff's claim), or within 20 days of the date of this Order if that date is later. The disclosures related to Insurers and the use of the term "Insurer" under this Part shall extend to anyone acting for or on behalf of the Insurer in relation to the claim of the Insured, including the employees, contractors, and agents of either the Insurer or anyone providing services to the Insurer related to the Insured's claim or Claimed Loss.
- (3) Information to be produced by the Insurer:
  - a. If there is a dispute over coverage, in whole or in part, an explanation of the Insurer's reason for the denial of coverage, including:
    - i. Any exclusions or exceptions, or other coverage or legal defenses;
    - The factual basis for any exclusion, limitation, exception, or conditionbased dispute or defense;
    - iii. Whether there is also a dispute as to the value or amount of the Claimed Loss:
    - iv. Any other basis on which coverage was denied.
  - b. If there is a dispute over all or part of the valuation, an explanation of the Insurer's basis for disputing the value or amount of the Claimed Loss, including:
    - i. The Insurer's understanding of the nature of the dispute;
    - ii. The amount the Insurer disputes and the basis for that dispute, including any applicable Policy provisions that the Insurer alleges or believes are relevant to the dispute; and
    - The amount the Insurer agrees to pay, if any, with respect to any undisputed part of the Claimed Loss.
  - Any Policy terms or conditions that the Insurer alleges the Insured failed to comply with, including conditions precedent or other terms.
  - d. Any payments previously made under the Policy relating to the Event.
  - A general description of any other basis for nonpayment of the Claimed Loss, in whole or in part.
  - f. Any other Event-related lawsuits filed for the Property or the Insured.
  - g. Identify the adjuster(s) who handled the claim.

Page 6 of 8

- Identify the individual(s) who evaluated, recommended, made, approved, or rejected the claim decision.
- i. Identify the field personnel, estimators, inspectors, contractors, engineers, or other persons who participated in any investigation of the claims or the claims process, had any part relating to Insurer's evaluation process for the claims, or upon who the Insurer relied upon or received information from concerning Insurer's evaluation process or claim decision; and identify anyone who had any role in drafting, editing, reviewing, or approving any report(s), evaluation(s), or inspection(s) on behalf of Insurer involving the Insured's claim.
- If preexisting damage is at issue in the litigation, a general description of any prior claims in the past ten years for the Property.
- (4) Complete and unaltered copies of the following documents to be produced by the Insurer:
  - a. The entire claim file maintained by the Insurer.
  - b. The complete Policy in effect at the time of the Event.
  - c. Assessments of the Claimed Loss, including: loss reports, expert reports that contain any description or analysis of the scope of loss or any defenses under the Policy, damage assessments, adjuster's reports, engineering reports, contractor's reports, and estimates of repair or replacement. This shall include all reports or analyses, including all drafts, prepared as part of the evaluation or claims process involving Insured's claim by Insurer, or documents or records reviewed in any way in connection with Insurer's handling of the claim.
  - d. Photographs and videos of the Property taken for the purpose of documenting the condition of the Property, including photographs and videos of the Claimed Loss.
  - e. Any other evaluations of the Claimed Loss.
  - f. Documents containing recordings, transcripts, or notes of statements, conversations, or communications by or between the Insurer and the Insured relating to the Event.
  - g. Any claim log, journal, diary, or record maintained by the Insurer relating to the Claimed Loss. This includes all written records, written communications, records of oral communications, reports, audits, or other records, including any documents, envelopes, logs or other documents evidencing when Insurer came into possession of any such records, regarding any aspect of the Insured's claim or that are in any way relating to the Insurer's investigation into the Claimed Loss, Insurer's processing of Insured's claim (including adjustment, evaluation, and handling), or

Insurer's claim decision.

- h. The complete underwriting file maintained by the Insurer relating to the Property, its condition, or coverage.
- i. Proofs of loss for the Claimed Loss.
- If there has been an appraisal under the Policy, all documents relating to the appraisal process.
- k. Any manuals, policies, directives, guidelines, instructions (whether written, electronic, or otherwise), literature, or similar written materials that would pertain to the Claimed Loss, Hurricane Laura claims generally when the Claimed Loss relates to Laura, Hurricane Delta claims generally when the Claimed Loss relates to Delta, or to similar types of claims generally such that they would therefore be applicable to the Hurricane Cases including the Insured's claim. This includes any document that Insurer relied upon, or intends to rely upon, pertaining to industry guidelines, standard practices, or recommended practices for adjusting first party claims.
- For non-NFIP Claims, written communications exchanged between the Insured
  and Insurer that refer or relate to Insured's Claimed Loss, Property, or damages, or
  otherwise relating to the Insured's claim.
- m. Any other document(s) on which the Insurer relies to support its defenses.

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IN RE: HURRICANE LAURA

STATE OF LOUISIANA

AND

PARISH OF CALCASIEU

HURRICANE DELTA CLAIMS

14TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

# EXHIBIT "B" STIPULATION FOR MEDIATION

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the undersigned parties:

- 1. The parties agreed to submit their dispute to mediation pursuant to the SSP, as specified in the Case Management Order (and any relevant supplements).
- No party shall be bound by anything said or done during the mediation, unless either a written and signed stipulation is entered into or the parties enter into a written and signed agreement. The appointed neutral may meet in private conference with less than all parties. Information obtained by the neutral, either in written or oral form, shall be confidential and except as provided by Order of the Court it shall not be revealed by the neutral unless and until the party who provided the information agrees to its disclosure.
- 3. The mediation process, for the purpose of all federal and state rules protecting disclosures made during such conferences from later discovery or use in evidence, shall be considered a settlement negotiation. The entire procedure shall be confidential, and no stenographic or other record shall be made except to memorialize a settlement record. All communications, oral or written, made during the mediation by any party or a party's agent, employee, or attorney are confidential and, where appropriate, are to be considered work product and privileged. Such communications, statements, promises, offers, views and opinions shall not be subject to any discovery or admissible for any purpose, including impeachment, in any litigation or other proceeding involving the parties. However, any evidence which would otherwise subject to discovery or admissible shall not be excluded from discovery or admission in evidence solely because it has been referenced or discussed during this mediation process.
- 4. The appointed neutral and their agents shall enjoy the same immunity as judges and court employees, whether under federal or state law, for any act or omission in connection with the mediation, and from compulsory process to testify or produce documents in connection with the mediation.

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- 5. The parties shall not:
  - (i) Call or subpoena the appointed neutral as a witness or expert in any proceeding relating to: the mediation, the subject matter of the mediation, or any thoughts or impressions which the appointed neutral may have about the parties in the mediation:
  - (ii) Subpoena any notes, documents or other material prepared by the appointed neutral in the course of or in connection with the mediation; and
  - (iii) Offer into evidence any statements, views or opinions of the appointed neutral.
- 6. The appointed neutral's services have been made available to the parties through the dispute resolution procedures sponsored by the Court. In accordance with those procedures, the appointed neutral represents that he or she has taken requisite oaths.
- Any party to this Stipulation is required to attend at least one session and as may be directed by the Special Master as many other sessions thereafter as may be helpful in resolving this dispute.
- 8. An individual with final authority to settle the matter and to bind the party shall attend the mediation on behalf of each party.

PLAINTIFF	COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF
Date:	Date:
DEFENDANT	COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT
Date:	Date:
CONSENTED TO BY:	
NEUTRAL APPOINTED BY THE COURT	
Date:	

IN RE: HURRICANE LAURA

STATE OF LOUISIANA

AND

PARISH OF CALCASIEU

HURRICANE DELTA CLAIMS

Tiked!

MAR 1 G 2021

14TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

DEPUTY CLERK

#### INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER

The Initial Discovery Protocols are designed to achieve more efficient and targeted discovery. Prompt entry of a protective order will allow the parties to begin exchanging documents and information without delay. The Interim Protective Order will remain in place until the parties agree to, or the court orders, a different protective order, but absent agreement or court order, the Interim Protective Order will not apply to subsequent discovery. The parties may agree to use the Interim Protective Order throughout litigation.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following restrictions and procedures apply to certain information. documents, and excerpts from documents and information the parties exchange in response to the Disaster Protocols:

- Any party may designate as "Confidential" any document, or information contained
  in or revealed in a document, provided in response to these Protocols or, if
  applicable, in subsequent discovery, if the party determines, in good faith, that the
  designation is necessary to protect the party. Information and documents a party
  designates as confidential will be stamped "CONFIDENTIAL." Confidential
  information or documents are referred to collectively as "Confidential Information."
- 2. Unless the court orders otherwise, the Confidential Information disclosed will be held and may be used by any person receiving the information solely in this litigation.
- 3. If a party challenges another party's Confidential Information designation, counsel must make a good-faith effort to resolve the dispute. If that is unsuccessful, the challenging party may seek resolution by the court. Nothing in this Interim Protective Order is an admission by any party that Confidential Information disclosed in this case is relevant or admissible. Each party specifically reserves the right to object to the use or admissibility of all Confidential Information disclosed, in accordance with applicable law and court rules.
- 4. Information or documents designated as "Confidential" must not be disclosed to any person, except:
  - a. the requesting party and counsel, including in-house or agency counsel;
  - b. employees of counsel assigned to and necessary to assist in the litigation;
  - consultants or experts assisting in the prosecution or defense of the litigation, to the extent deemed necessary by counsel;
  - any person from whom testimony is taken or is to be taken in this litigation, but that person may be shown the Confidential Information only in preparation for, and during, the testimony and may not retain the Confidential Information;
  - e. The judge, the court staff, including the clerk, case manager, court reporter, or other person with access to Confidential Information by virtue of his or her position with the court, or the jury; and

Page



Page Count: 5

- f. The Special Master, Deputy Special Master, and any mediator involved in resolving the case, who shall all be subject to these confidentiality provisions.
- 5. Before disclosing or displaying Confidential Information to any person, a party must:
  - inform the person of the confidential nature of the information and documents;
     and
  - b. inform the person that the court has enjoined the use of the information or documents for any purpose other than this litigation and has enjoined the disclosure of that information or documents to any other person.
- 6. The Confidential Information may be displayed to and discussed with the persons identified in Paragraphs 4(c) and (d) only on the condition that before any such display or discussion, each person must be asked to sign an agreement to be bound by this Order in the form attached as Exhibit A1. If the person refuses to sign an agreement in the form attached, the party seeking to disclose the Confidential Information may seek relief from the court.
- 7. The disclosure of a document or information without designating it as "Confidential Information" does not waive the right to designate the document or information as Confidential Information if the document or information is designated under this Order.
- 8. Documents or information filed with the court that is subject to confidential treatment under this Order, and any pleadings, motions, or other papers filed with the court disclosing any Confidential Information, must be filed under seal to the extent permitted by the law, rules, or court orders, and must be kept under seal until the court orders otherwise. To the extent the court requires any further act by the parties as a precondition to filing the documents or information under seal, the party filing the document or information is responsible for satisfying the requirements. If possible, only the confidential parts of documents of information filed with the court will be filed under seal.
- 9. At the conclusion of this litigation, the Confidential Information and any copies must be promptly (and in no event later than 60 days after entry of final judgment no longer subject to appeal) returned to the producing party or certified as destroyed, except that the parties' counsel may retain their working files on the condition that those files will remain confidential. Materials filed in the court will remain in the file unless the court orders their return.
- 10. Producing documents or information, including Confidential Information, in this litigation does not waive attorney-client privilege or work-product protection for the documents or information, under Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 502.

This Order shall not diminish the right of any party to apply to the court for a different or additional Protective Order relating to Confidential Information, to object to the production of documents or information, to apply to the court for an order compelling production of documents or information, or to modify this Order. Any party may seek enforcement of this Order, and any violation of this Order may be sanctioned by the Court.

of March , 2021, at Lake Charles,
HON. CLAYTON DAVIS District Judge, Division B  HON. DAVID A. RITCHIE District Judge, Division E
HON. KENDRICK J. GUIDRY District Judge, Division H

# EXHIBIT A1

I have been informed by counsel that certain documents or information to be disclosed
to me in connection with the matter entitled have been
designated as confidential. I have been informed that any of the documents or information
labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" are confidential by Order of the Court.
I hereby agree that I will not disclose any information contained in the documents to
any other person. I further agree not to use this information for any purpose other than this
litigation.
DATE:
Signed in the presence of:
(Attorney)

IN RE: HURRICANE LAURA

: STATE OF LOUISIANA

AND

PARISH OF CALCASIEU

HURRICANE DELTA CLAIMS

14TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

DOCKET NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY CLERK

#### EXHIBIT C

DIV	DOCKET #	CAPTION
G	2021-000172	DAVID BUTTROSS III vs. LIGHTHOUSE EXCALIBUR INSURANCE COMPANY
E	2021-000466	MARK DESHOTEL VS. ALLSTATE INDEMNITY COMPANY
D	2021-000524	ETHAN DAVIS vs. SCOTTSDALE INSURANCE COMPANY
E	2021-000541	CLAYTON TOERNER vs. GULF STATES INSURANCE COMPANY
F	2021-000640	TARA LOUVIER V5. MAISON INSURANCE COMPANY
н	2021-000682	RUDIE R SOILEAU JR vs. MAISON INSURANCE COMPANY
D	2021-000703	GEORGE HUTCHINSON vs. UNITED SERVICES AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
F	2021-000783	KEVIN GUILLORY vs. FEDNAT INSURANCE COMPANY
F	2021-000794	MICHAEL WITTLER VS. STATE NATIONAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
D	2021-000797	CARL CORMIER vs. ALLSTATE INDEMNITY COMPANY
В	2021-000798	DUSTIN STELLY vs. ALLIED TRUST INSURANCE COMPANY
G	2021-000808	THOMAS CLOPHUS vs. LOUISIANA CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION
D	2021-000822	DARRIN FONTENNOT vs. GEOVERA SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY
E	2021-000965	RICHARD DAVIS vs. MAISON INSURANCE COMPANY

Thank C.C.

Deputy Clerk of Court

Calcasieu Parish Clerk of Court PO Box 1030 Lake Charles, LA 70602



14<sup>a</sup> Judicial District Court State of Louisiana Parish of Calcasieu

## **NEW CIVIL FILING**

KIRK MOORE

VS. 2022-004018

STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

Sarah Hollier Deputy Clerk of Court

Filing Date: 05/25/2022 01: Case Number: 2022-064018 Dommern Name: New Suit

Page 1 of 1

# Calcasieu H. Lynn Jones, II

Submission# 212108

Date Submitted 8/22/22 12:06 PM

Date Processed

8/23/22 10:18 AM

Processed By

Jo Ann Hanks

Suit#

C-2022-4018 B

Filed By

waters@hairshunnarah.com

**Division** 

# DAMAGES OR PERSONAL INJURIES, PETITION FOR (INCLUDES @PES SHERIFF SERVICE)

MISCELLANEOUS FILING 1pg

If appropriate, what is the amount of your ESCROW DEPOSIT?

How many Additional Sheriff Services are required? (\$75)

How many Secretary of State Services does this require?

How many Commissioner of Insurance Services does this require?

How many Certified Copies are requested?

How many Conformed Copies are requested?

1

How many TOTAL photocopied pages will be required (total document

pages x number of copies)?

MOORE KIRK (Plaintiff)

MOORE, KIRK (Plaintiff)

SUITE SOOMET AIRIE LA 70001

MOORE CAROL (Plaintiff)

MOORE, CAROL (Plaintiff)

MOORE CAROL Plaintiff)

STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY, (Defendant)



AUG 3 1 2022

Calcasieu H. Lynn Jones, II Payment Receipt

Date Processed 8/23/22 10:18 AM

Suit# 2022-4018 B

Billing Address Insurance Claim HQ

3540 S. I-10 Service Rd W, Ste 300 Metairie, LA 7000

Pre-Auth TransactionId 2ad4f415c4db419483e41e9ce236175b

Clerk Amount 440.00
Convenience Fee (Non-Clerk) 15.18
Online Filing Fee (Non-Clerk) 7.50
Total Charged To Card 462.68

Citation for Petition

KIRK MOORE
VS. 2022-004018
STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY
COMPANY



14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court State of Louisiana Parish of Calcasieu

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
TO: STATE FARM FIRE AND
CASUALTY COMPANY
THROUGH LOUISIANA
SECRETARY OF STATE
\$585 ARCHIVES AVENUE
BATON ROUGE, LA 70809

Parish of East Baton Rouge

You are named as defendant in the above captioned matter. Attached to this citation is a:

\*\*PETITION POR DAMAGES\*\*

\*\*\*ALSO SERVED WITH ATTACHED CERTIFIED COPIES OF: "SECOND AMENDED CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER REGARDING CERTAIN PROFERTY DAMAGE SUITS ARISING FROM HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA" and "INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER".

You must either comply with the demand contained in the petition of KIRK MOORE, or make an appearance either by filing an answer or pleading in the 14\* Judicial District Court located at 1000 Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA within the delay provided in Article 1001 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure under penalty of default.

#### Article 1001 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure states:

A. A Defendant shall file his answer within twenty-one (21) days after service of Citation upon him, except as otherwise provided by law.

If the plaintiff files and serves a Discovery Request with his Petition, the Defendant shall file his answer to the petition within thirty (30) days after service of citation and service of discovery request.

- B. When an Exception is filed prior to Answer and is overruled or referred to the merits, or is sustained and an Amendment of the Petition ordered, the Answer shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after the exception is overruled or referred to the merits, or fifteen (15) days after service of the Amended Petition.
- C. The Court may grant additional time for answering.

Article 1151 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure provides in pertinent part:

A defendant shall plead in response to an Amended Petition within the time remaining for pleading to the Original Pleading or within ten (10) days after service of the Amended Petition, whichever period is longer, unless the time is extended under Article 1001.

THE CLERK OF COURT'S STAFF CANNOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE.

Witness the Honorable Judges of said Court, at Lake Charles, Louissana, this 22nd day of August 2022.

Issued and delivered September 14, 2022.

Byron Wilkinson Deput: Clerk of Court

Byra Withism

SERVICE INFORMATION

Films Date 35 (14) 2022 DE42 PM Page Count 2

Case Number, 2022-004015 Document Name: 1604-H Grasion for Fennion - Humeans

[File Copy] CME1804

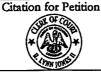
Page 1 of 2

# Case 2:22-cv-06090-JDC-TPL Document 1-5 Filed 11/29/22 Page 35 of 38 PageID #: 46 Received on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_, and on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_, served the above named party as follows: PERSONAL SERVICE on the party herein named \_\_\_\_\_\_ DOMICILIARY SERVICE on the party herein named by leaving the same at his domicile in the parish in the hands of \_\_\_\_\_\_, a person apparently over the age of seventeen years, living and residing in said domicile and whose name and other facts connected with this service, I learned by interrogating the said person, said party herein being absent from his residence at the time of said service. RETURNED: FARISH OF \_\_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_ SERVICE \$ \_\_\_\_\_\_ Therefore \_\_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Sheriff MILEAGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Sheriff

[File Copy] CMS1504

TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Farry No. P001

KIRK MOORE VS. 2022-004018 STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY



14th Judicial District Court State of Louisiana Parish of Calcasieu

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA TO: STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY THROUGH LOUISIANA SECRETARY OF STATE 8585 ARCHIVES AVENUE BATON ROUGE, LA 70809

Deputy Clerk of Court sleu Parish, Louisiana

Parish of East Baton Rouge

You are named as defendant in the above captioned matter. Attached to this citation is a:

\*\*PETITION FOR DAMAGES\*\*

\*\*\*ALSO SERVED WITH ATTACHED CERTIFIED COPIES OF: "SECOND AMENDED CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER REGARDING CERTAIN PROPERTY DAMAGE SUITS ARISING FROM HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA" and "INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER".

You must either comply with the demand contained in the petition of KIRK MOORE, or make an appearance either by filing an answer or pleading in the 14th Judicial District Court located at 1000 Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA within the delay provided in Article 1001 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure under penalty of default.

#### Article 1001 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure states:

C. A Defendant shall file his answer within twenty-one (21) days after service of Citation upon him, except as otherwise provided by law.

If the plaintiff files and serves a Discovery Request with his Petition, the Defendant shall file his answer to the petition within thirty (30) days after service of citation and service of discovery request.

- D. When an Exception is filed prior to Answer and is overruled or referred to the merits, or is sustained and an Amendment of the Petition ordered, the Answer shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after the exception is overruled or referred to the merits, or fifteen (15) days after service of the Amended Petition.
- C. The Court may grant additional time for answering.

Article 1151 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure provides in pertinent part:

A defendant shall plead in response to an Amended Petition within the time remaining for pleading to the Original Pleading or within ten (10) days after service of the Amended Petition, whichever period is longer, unless the time is extended under Article 1001.

THE CLERK OF COURT'S STAFF CANNOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE.

Witness the Honorable Judges of said Court, at Lake Charles, Louisiana, this 22nd day of August 2022.

Issued and delivered September 14, 2022.

RECEIVED

SET 9 2022

E.B.R. SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Byra Withiam

Byron Wilkinson I made service on the named party Deputy Clerk of Courtendering a copy of this document on this day

SERVICE INFORMATION

C M S 8 1 6 0 8 Filing Date: 09/14/2022 03:49 PM

Number: 2022-004018

Document Name: 1604-H Citation for Petition - Hurricans

[Original Copy]

Page 1 of 2

ase 2:22-	cv-06090-JDC-TPL Document 1-5 Filed 11/29/22 Page 37 of 38 PageID #: $48$
	Received on the day of 20, and on the day of 20, served the above named party as follows:
-	PERSONAL SERVICE on the party herein named
	DOMICILIARY SERVICE on the party herein named by leaving the same at his domicile in the parish in the hands of, a person apparently over the age of seventeen years, living and residing in said domicile and whose name and other facts connected with this service, I learned by interrogating the said person, said party herein being absent from his residence at the time of said service.  RETURNED:  PARISH OF this day of 20
	SERVICE \$BY:
	Deputy Sheriff MILEAGE \$
	TOTAL \$
	Party No. P001

KIRK MOORE VS. 2022-004018 STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY



14<sup>22</sup> Judicial District Court State of Louisiana Parish of Calcasieu

TO: GRETCHEN LILJEBERG CASEY 3540 S. I-10 SERVICE ROAD W STE 300 METAIRIE, LA 70001

Service issued to: STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY/SOS

Date of Service: 09/30/2022

Number of Service: 1

Personal/Domiciliary: PERSONAL SERVICE

Pleading served: 1604H CITATION FOR PETITION - HURRICANE

Issued by the Clerk of Court on the 11th day of October 2022.

Sherri Profitt Deputy Clerk

Filing Date: 20/14/2021 12:00 AM Page Count: 1

Filing Date: 39/14/2022 12:00 AM Case Number: 2022-004015 Document Name: Notice of Service